

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony today. My name is Scott Ellis, Executive Director of the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association. Our association represents nearly 2,000 liquor licensees in Michigan, which include bars and restaurants, off-premise retail stores, as well as distilleries, wineries and breweries.

I'm submitting this written testimony today on behalf of House Bills 4709 and 4710. These bills will impact the brewing industry by increasing the number of locations a brewpub may have interest in and increase the barrel threshold substantially for both brewpubs and microbrewers. House Bill 4711 will increase the number of tasting rooms for breweries.

We all know that in the past few years the economy has been tough on business owners within Michigan, and the hospitality industry has not been immune to these difficult times.

The craft beer industry has grown considerably the last few years and Michigan has become 5th in the nation for number of breweries, microbreweries and brewpubs. Our association has a considerable number of brewers as members and we can see some benefits to these bills, such as:

- They would reduce barriers for growth, which is good for all Michigan businesses
- It would benefit a large portion of our member base
- They would help the continuing popular trend of craft beer in Michigan and the ability to promote Michigan made products

However, due to other pending legislative changes we reserve the right to support or oppose these bills and remain neutral at this time.

Again, thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony to you today.